

*To the Library:
B. M. A.*

GAINSBOROUGH

Li

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE FIRST

Annual

Report,

FOR

1911

OF

H. B. WILLOUGHBY SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

CASKGATE STREET,
GAINSBOROUGH,
FEBRUARY, 1912.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Gainsborough.

Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,

ANNUAL REPORT.

I beg to lay before you herewith my Annual Report for 1911, as to Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District, together with the Tables of Births and Deaths registered, the prescribed forms of cases of Infectious Diseases; and the special tables as to Infantile Mortality, &c., tabulated as required by the Local Government Board and the Administration of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.

Before proceeding with my report I must express my sorrow and offer my condolences to the Council in the loss they have suffered by the death of Doctor G. B. Slader, the late Medical Officer of Health, who had served the Council for many years. His loss will be deeply felt.

The past year has been a phenomenal one from a meteorological point of view, a dry spring, followed by a summer of tropical heat, passing into an autumn of heavy rains. Notwithstanding this however, the health and well-being of the population of your district has not suffered or departed from the average in any marked degree. The grave danger associated with hot dry weather, viz: Epidemic diarrhoea which is so prevalent in large towns has not affected your country district to any great extent, though as would be expected there were several cases.

There has been a slight increase in the number of notifications of infectious diseases.

The measures taken for the prevention of disease have been eminently satisfactory in their results, as no epidemics have occurred; though one seemed probable in the Haxey district, this will be dealt with later.

**WORK OF SANI-
TARY INSPECTOR.**

A very large amount of work has been done by your Inspector of Nuisances during the year.

Over sixteen hundred inspections have been made and nearly four hundred notices to abate nuisances and remedy defects found, have been served.

It is highly gratifying to be able to report that a very ready response to these notices has been received and to learn that in the majority of cases the defects, repairs, &c., have been remedied.

Several cases of overcrowding have been brought to light and on notices to remedy being served, these have all or will shortly be put right.

Eighteen houses have been condemned as unfit for habitation; these have all been dealt with; the houses having been put into habitable repair, left empty or pulled down.

All the premises inspected under the Factory and Workshops Act have been found in good order.

All the registered Cowsheds, 38 in number have been inspected twice during the year and found generally in good order.

20 Canal Boats have been inspected and no serious defects found.

Plans have been passed for 24 new dwellings.

Schools and houses have been thoroughly disinfected where there has been any probability of infection remaining.

MILK SUPPLY.

The conditions under which the milk is supplied throughout your district are on the whole very good and the cowsheds satisfactory as to cleanliness and ventilation.

With regard to the cows themselves however we are not in a position to give any definite data as to their health and fitness for supplying milk.

Though the inspections have not revealed any marked evidence of disease in the Cows, I would suggest as a precautionary measure that a thoroughly qualified Veterinary Surgeon be employed to make periodical inspections as to the actual health of the cows themselves.

This I consider advisable, as this question of milk supply and its purity which can only be guaranteed by the freedom from disease of the cows supplying it, is each year becoming more important and is of the utmost value for the health of the district and the future citizens thereof.

FOOD SUPPLY.

The conditions affecting food supply other than milk, have been gone into, viz : Slaughterhouses and Bakehouses inspected and found satisfactory.

RIVER POLLUTION.

This in the case of the main river (the Trent), is as before and very bad.

Apart from the Trent however there is no great amount of sewage entering streams in the district.

**SEWERAGE
DISPOSAL.**

The arrangements for drainage and sewerage disposal throughout the district show a marked and progressive improvement. This will in time I have no doubt bring about a lessening of disease to the great benefit of the community.

A large number of the old soak closets have been converted into the more sanitary pail closets, the collected excreta being buried, in this way their manurial value is not lost.

**HOUSE ACCOMMO-
DATION.**

The house accommodation of the district has been thoroughly gone into.

Three-fourths of the district has been carefully inspected and a record of every house is kept by your Inspector in proper registers, dealing with the question of drains, ventilation, water supply, number of inmates, &c. There is no real demand for any further accommodation on the part of the country people.

**HOUSING & TOWN
PLANNING ACT,
1909.**

This Act has been taken up by your Council in the most earnest and thorough manner, and reflects the greatest credit on the Council for having so taken up the Act at the earliest possible date.

It is an Act of far reaching consequences and will be of the greatest benefit to the working classes of the present and even more so those of the future.

It is a work which needs very careful and tactful handling, the details of the work done under the Act given under the heading Sanitary Inspector's report show I think a highly gratifying and satisfactory result.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the Rural District.

- (a) Public Health Acts, Amendment Act 1890, Part III.
- (b) Public Health Acts, Amendment Act 1907.
- (c) Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of your district comprises three types of supply—

- (1) Town water main (constant).
- (2) Rain water tanks.
- (3) Wells.

The Parish of Morton is supplied by the town mains, with the exception of 61 houses.

Of these 61. 59 are supplied by well and pump.

1 „ rain water.

The remaining house obtains water from a pump a little distance off.

The following villages, West Butterwick, East Ferry, Owston Ferry, East Stockwith, Walkerith and Wildsworth, obtain their water supply from rain water tanks.

The rest of the district comprising the villages of Blyton, Brampton, Blyborough, Gate Burton, Corringham, Coates, Fenton, Fillingham, Glentworth, Grayingham, Greenhill and Redhill, Heapham, Hardwick, Harpswell, Hemswell, Haxey, Kexby, Knaith, Kettlethorpe, Lea, Laugh-ton, Marton, Newton-on-Trent, Northorpe, Pilham, Scotter, Scotton, Southorpe, Stow, Springthorpe, Sturton, Thonock, Torksey, Upton, Willingham and Willoughton obtain their water supply from wells. All the houses are supplied and on the whole the water supply is good.

The quality of the water is generally hard but otherwise good.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The area of the district is 92,537 acres.

The population as given by the 1911 census was 14,742, at the census of 1901 the population was given as 14,543 so that there is an increase of 199.

The number of houses is 3610, with an average of 4.8 per house, and 6.2 people per acre.

BIRTHS.

The number of births for the year 1911 is 354, giving a birth-rate of 24.00 per thousand.

The number of births for 1911 exceed those of 1910 by 34, quite a substantial increase.

The number of births may be divided as follows—

Legitimate	Boys	165	
	Girls	176	Totals 341.
Illegitimate	Boys	7	
	Girls	6	Totals 13.
			<hr/> 354

TABLE A.

Sub-District.	1st Half Year.	2nd Half.	Totals.	Illegitimate.
A. GAINSBOROUGH	14	14	28	3
B. MARTON ...	48	54	102	5
C. SCOTTER ..	61	49	110	2
D. MISTERTON..	65	49	114	3
TOTALS ..	188	166	354	13

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered in the district for the year 1911 is 209.

Transferable deaths, non resident in the district 0.

Residents not registered in district 17.

Giving a death-rate of 14.17.

There is an increase of deaths over last year's number by 24.

TABLE B.

This Table gives the total deaths according to the sub-districts for all ages, and for under 1 year, comparing them with the previous 4 years.

Year.	A		B		C		D		TOTALS	
	Misterton.		Scotter.		Marton.		Gainsborough		All Ages	Under 1 Year
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	All Ages	Under 1 Year	All Ages	Under 1 Year	All Ages	Under 1 Year	All Ages	Under 1 Year
1907	57	8	48	7	60	6	18	2	183	23
1908	65	10	62	11	63	7	28	3	218	31
1909	65	9	60	9	84	11	16	2	223	32
1910	57	13	46	8	69	11	13	0	185	32
1911	64	6	48	9	73	7	24	7	209	29

Total deaths of illegitimate children 4.

Giving a death-rate of 30.7 per 1000.

The chief causes of death in children under 1 year were, Diarrhœa, Premature birth, marasmus, bronchitis.

TABLE C.

RETURN OF ALL DEATHS AND THEIR CAUSES.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				All Ages	Under 1 Year
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1	0
Measles	...	...	...	3	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	3	0
Influenza	...	...	...	5	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	15	0
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	6	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	4	2
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	1	0
Malignant Disease	...	...	...	18	0
Bronchitis	...	...	...	16	2
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	0
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs...	...	...	...	3	0
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	...	7	5
Appendicitis	...	...	...	0	0
Alcoholism	...	...	...	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	2	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	8	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	0	0
Other Accidents of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	3	0
Congenital Malformation and Premature Birth	...	...	...	14	13
Violent Deaths excluding Suicide	...	...	...	5	0
Suicides	...	...	...	2	0
Heart Disease	...	...	...	19	0
Senile Decay	...	...	...	28	0
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	57	4
TOTALS ..				226	30

As to the causes of death taken seriatim, none I think call for any very detailed discussion, except Tuberculosis and Malignant Disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This disease taken in all its forms accounts for 25 victims.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis or Consumption 15.

Meningeal ,, 6.

Other forms of ,, 4.

The ages of the persons dying from Consumption vary from 12—70 years. The largest number occurring between the ages of 25—45.

I think one may hope that in time, with the improved sanitation, more especially, ventilation, and the instructions given by the Medical practitioners and Medical Officers of Health under the compulsory notification of this disease, there will be a diminution in the numbers of this very terrible disease.

Another factor which will exert considerable influence is the systematic examination of school children. By this means, abnormal conditions, as adenoids, enlarged tonsils, nasal obstruction are found early and advice given to the parents to have them remedied. By so doing the child's health and in consequence its power of resisting disease is markedly increased.

Tubercular Meningitis is mostly a disease of youth and is usually secondary to some tubercular focus in bone, glands or intestine. All the six cases were under 25 years of age except one.

The other forms of tubercular disease, four in number include disease of bones and intestine (peritoneum).

**MALIGNANT DIS-
DISEASE AND
CANCER, &c.**

These cases 18 in number show an increase over last year, and there has been a progressive increase during the last 4 years.

1908	..	8 cases.
1909	..	14 cases.
1910	..	15 cases.
1911	..	18 cases.

The cases for the year all occurred in persons over 45 years, with one exception.

The Abdominal organs were the affected part in nearly all the cases.

Why there is this increase it is impossible to say. Whether progressive civilization renders the body less hardy and more prone to become the seat of irregular cellular growth consequent on some form of irritation or stimulus or what else may be the cause is quite unknown.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The compulsory notifiable diseases include Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Erysipelas, and Puerperal Fever.

The only ones which have occurred in your district are Enteric, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas.

The total number of notifications sent in was 54. Compared with the previous 3 years, this shows an increase.

1908	..	44 notifications.
1909	..	45 „
1910	..	44 „
1911	..	54 „

Taking each disease the numbers are—

Enteric Fever	...	11 cases.
Diphtheria	..	13
Scarlet Fever	..	21
Erysipelas	..	9
		<hr/>
		54

Compared with last year's figures—

	1910	1911
Enteric	6	11
Diphtheria	23	13
Scarlet Fever	9	21
Erysipelas	6	9

The deaths from infectious fevers notifiable and non-notifiable were 13.

Measles	..	3
Influenza	..	5
Diphtheria	..	3
Enteric	..	1
Whooping Cough	..	1

**ENTERIC FEVER
OR
TYPHOID FEVER.**

11 cases and 1 death.

Although there has been an increase in numbers, there has been nothing in the form of an epidemic ; all the houses implicated being scattered through the district.

The localities infected were—

Morton	3 cases ;	all in one house.
Upton	1	
East Stockwith	1	
Willingham	2	both from the same house.
Springthorpe	1	
Hemswell	1	fatal case, aged 54.
Knaith Hill	1	
Lea	1	

The cases from Willingham, Knaith Hill and Lea were treated in the Willingham Hospital.

Age incidence—	5—20 years.	6 cases.
	20—40 „	2 „
	40—60 „	3 „

The source of infection in 5 of the cases was I think undoubtedly drinking water. 4 of them Trent water probably unboiled ; 1, water from an old pump which ought never to have been used. In 2 cases the infection was caught while away from home ; I am almost certain.

In 1 case the infection was from a previous case in the house.

In the remaining 3 cases the source of infection was quite unknown.

Although in the Trentside villages galvanised iron tanks have been provided by the Council for the storage of rain water ; the inhabitants are I fear very careless and will use the Trent water ; collecting it in an earthenware receptacle and allowing the sediment to settle and then sometimes boiling and sometimes not.

SCARLET FEVER.

21 cases.

The distribution was as follows—

Torksey	..	4 cases.
East Ferry	..	6
Brampton	..	1
Knaith Hill	..	1
Fillingham	..	3
Scotter	..	2
Haxey	..	4

Age incidence—	Under 1 year	...	1
	1— 5 years	..	3
	5—10 „	..	13
	10—15 „	..	2
	15— 30 „	..	2

Nearly half the cases occurring during the first half of the year.

None of the cases seem to have been of a serious nature.

ERYSIPELAS.

9 cases. Scattered throughout the district. All in adult women except one case.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 13 cases of this disease, 3 of which were fatal.

The distribution was as follows—

Fillingham	..	2 cases.
Blyborough	..	1
Haxey	..	5
Scotton	..	4
Upton	..	1

Age incidence.	5—15 years.	12 cases.
	15—30 „	1 case.

These cases were all fairly mild with the exception of those at Haxey. There the disease threatened to assume serious proportions ; 3 of the cases were rapidly fatal and the parents seemed neglectful in not sending for Medical advice early, as two of the fatal cases had been ill for some time, and one was actually moribund when first seen by the doctor.

The schools were closed from Oct. 30th to Nov. 13th, and I drew out the following warning and had it put up in different parts of the Haxey district by your Inspector.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF GAINSBOROUGH.

DIPHTHERIA.

IMPORTANT.

Warning to Parents, Guardians, &c.

At the present time the disease **DIPHTHERIA** is unfortunately more or less prevalent in the **HAXEY** district. It is therefore of the **UTMOST IMPORTANCE** that all parents, guardians, &c., should seek medical advice and treatment in any case of sore Throat, huskiness of voice, or nasal discharge, as soon as possible, especially in young children. Children should be forbidden to suck, or put into their mouths, playthings and toys.

Attention is hereby directed to the Provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act which requires all householders and parents on becoming aware that any child or adult person is suffering from any infectious disease such as :—Small Pox, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, etc., to at once notify the same to the Medical Officer of Health. The Penalty for not doing so is a fine not exceeding 40s.

EXPOSING INFECTED PERSONS

PARENTS and others having charge of children suffering from any of the above diseases are liable to a penalty of £5 if they expose them in a street, public place, shop, inn, or public conveyance, and after this warning will be proceeded against without further notice.

By order,

H. B. WILLOUGHBY SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Gainsborough, 1st November, 1911.

Disinfectants were promptly distributed, and I am thankful to say that these prompt measures stopped what promised to be a serious outbreak. The origin of the trouble was quite uncertain, but the spread was undoubtedly personal contact.

The Diphtheria Anti-Toxin was used.

SMALLPOX.

There have been no cases of this disease in your district, though during the year there have been a considerable number of cases in different parts of England.

To one experienced in smallpox and its dangers, the spread of the anti-vaccination fad with its widely disseminated pamphlets of fairy tales and myths is to say the least of it, disquieting.

Certain as is that the improved sanitation of the country is a safeguard against the majority of infectious diseases; this alone, against this most virulent infectious disease is not sufficient, and there is undeniable evidence that efficient and thorough vaccination is the only safeguard.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

No cases reported.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN HOSPITALS, &c.

Under the regulations from May, 1911, when the in and out-patients of Hospitals and Dispensaries suffering from Consumption became notifiable, there have been three notifications of patients from your district.

Two of these are away in Sanitoria and one remains in the district.

Apart from the official notices of notifiable disease weekly returns of all infectious diseases are sent to me by the County Medical Officer of Health and by the local school teachers.

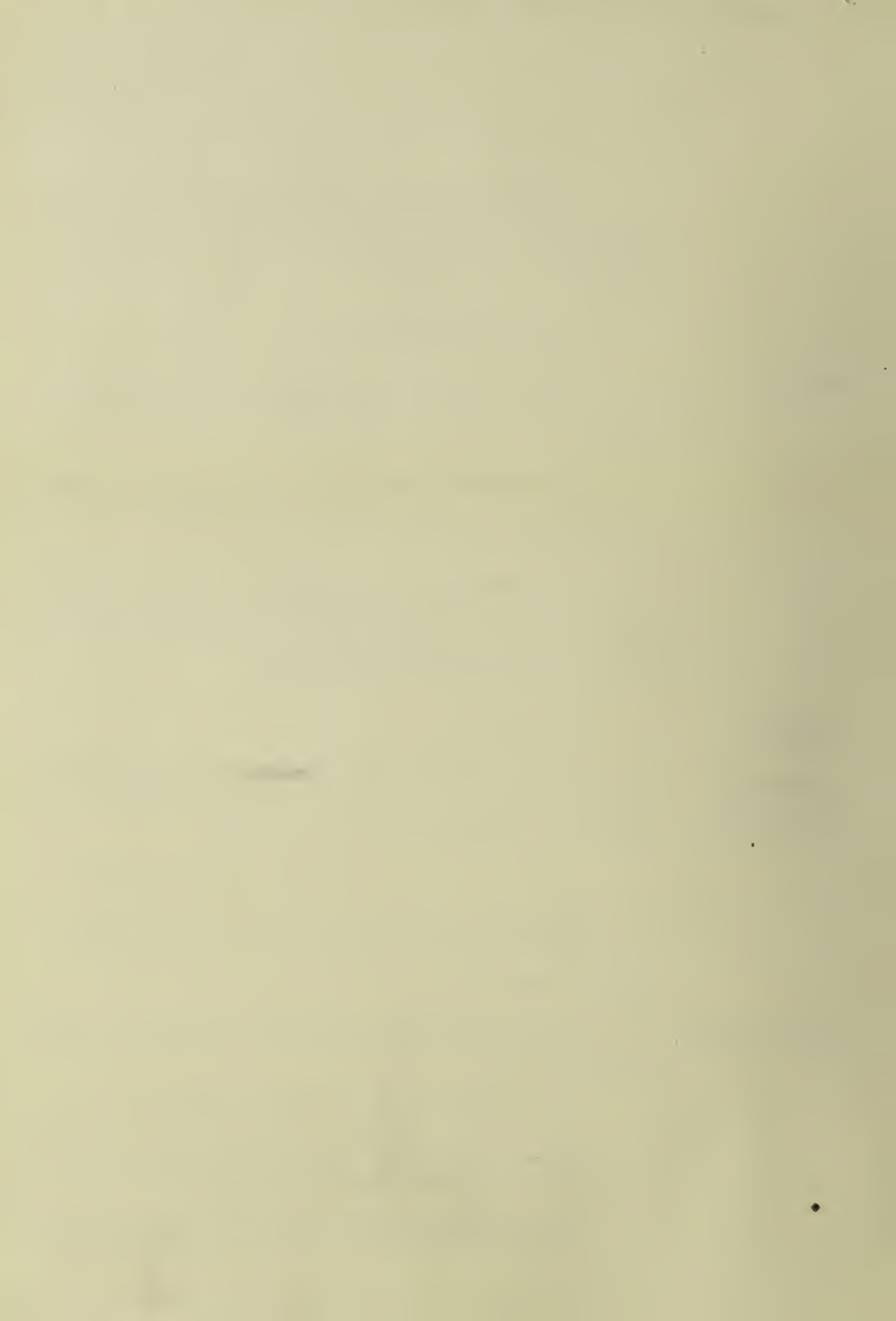
INFECTED HOUSES, &c.

Thorough disinfection has been carried out in all cases by your Inspector and his Assistant.

The patients have been isolated as completely as possible.

All cases notified are visited as soon as possible and instructions given to prevent as far as possible any spread of the disease.

Disinfectants are distributed to all cases by your Inspector or by myself.



**COPIES OF
REPORT.**

I am forwarding Copies of this Report to the various bodies, &c., interested, as requested by the Local Government Board.

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. R. Ashleigh Glegg the County M.O.H. for his ever ready help and advice, also all the officials of your Council for their kind assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. B. WILLOUGHBY SMITH,

M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

